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of population has occurred. The ruins of Koati and the aboriginal myths and traditions concerning the island of Titicaca are the subjects of research in the two last chapters of the book. There is an indication in one of the notes that the author will soon publish a more extended work on Bolivia, and the character of the book before us is ample ground for the cordial hope that it will be published soon.

ISAIAH BOWMAN.

**Crete, the Forerunner of Greece.** By Charles Henry Hawes and Harriet Boyd Hawes. Preface by Arthur J. Evans. xiv and 158 pp., map, plans, bibliography and index. Harper & Brothers, New York, 1909.

As the area for new discoveries over the earth's surface becomes from year to year more restricted and the legend *Terra incognita* is daily falling into disuse among the map-makers, man is forced to travel back, chronologically instead of longitudinally, if he would seek new lands and learn of strange peoples. The spade of the excavator is supplanting the oar of the mariner; and the traveller's tales brought back from buried years are hardly less wonderful and scarcely more credible than those which amazed our forefathers on the return of some early voyager. Fifteen or twenty years ago Homer and the Homeric age marked the day-spring of Greek civilization and the legendary date of the Trojan war stood like a boundary stone on an unknown and apparently unknowable chronological wilderness. But Dr. Evans and his fellow workers in Crete have changed all that, and this little book in Harper's "Library of Living Thought," by two of those workers is a record, up to date, of that change. How completely our earlier notions have been upset is evident from the start we receive on finding the Trojan War the last and closing date of a long and glorious chronology. The Year 1200 B. C. is so recent, so near to yesterday, that age upon age, period upon period, of human activity and progress, in government, commerce, architecture, art, and even in writing are set back of that time until we reach the Neolithic.

The book is a plainly written and evidently popular account of the discoveries in Crete on which this remarkable extension of our mental horizon backward into the origins of European life is based. The principal sites, the exhumed treasures, and the great palaces are described, and the old life of the Minoan people is set forth in considerable detail, even to the plumbing of their houses and the latest modes of the ladies' dress. A short preface by Dr. Evans himself assures us that the two authors speak with knowledge. An apology for a map is barely sufficient to enable us to locate the ancient sites, and leaves us happily free to fill in rivers and mountains, roads and railroads (if such exist) to our heart's content, thereby differing from the work of early chartographers who peopled their waste places with strange beasts and stranger names. In other respects the appearance of the little volume is good.

STEPHEN A. HURLBUT.

**The Nitrate Deposits of Chile.** By R. A. F. Penrose. *Jour. of Geol.*, Jan.-Feb., pp. 1-32, Chicago, 1910.

The much-discussed problem of the nitrate beds of northern Chile is here reviewed and some new light thrown upon it. After an introductory statement as to the history of the nitrate mining industry and the physical features of the nitrate region, the author discusses the mode of occurrence of the nitrate deposits

in Tarapacá and other nitrate regions. There is a long section describing the industrial methods employed in developing the nitrate deposits, the rate of production, and the uses of nitrate of soda. The final paragraph describes the nitrate deposits in other parts of the world.

Regarding the origin of the nitrates the author concludes that they were produced mostly from nitrogenous animal matter in old guano beds which once lined the waters of the interior basin. The guano deposits are assumed to have been formed as border accumulations during the time that the nitrate pampa was a part of the ocean floor and also during the later period when elevation of the region transformed it into an open bay or gulf and finally into an enclosed sea. In this view erosion is responsible for the disappearance of the guano since the leaching which gave rise to the concentrated nitrate. The occurrence of the nitrate in the form of sodium nitrate is attributed to the abundance of sodium salts in the region. Common salt was deposited upon the final evaporation of the waters of the enclosed sea. It is granted that a small amount of the nitrate may have been derived from the decay of marine and land vegetation about the borders of the tract. To the decay of marine plants is also attributed most of the iodine associated with the nitrate. The borates in the deposits are thought to have been derived from boron-bearing minerals and from springs carrying boron compounds. While these conclusions appear plausible the author admits that a vast amount of geological and chemical details must yet be worked out before the subject can be fully understood.

ISAIAH BOWMAN.

**Traité de Géographie physique.** Par Emmanuel de Martonne.

Completed in 4 parts. 1—Climat; 2—Hydrographie; 3—Relief du Sol; 4—Biogéographie. Parts 1 and 2, 412 pp., Photographs, Maps, Diagrams and Bibliographies. Librairie Armand Colin, Paris, 1909. 5 frs. a Part.

The author introduces this "Treatise on Physical Geography" with an interesting chapter on the evolution of the science from the geography of the ancients to that of the modern schools. On the basis of this review he proposes to define geography as the science of physical, biological and social phenomena, considered as to their distribution, their causes, and their mutual inter-relations.

The second chapter in the first part of the work discusses the form of the earth, its rotation and its revolution about the sun, and includes an interesting account of the effects which these physical phenomena have upon human conditions. Believing that no country is geographically known until a number of latitude and longitude determinations have made possible a proper map, and that the map is the basis of all geographic knowledge, the author devotes a chapter to a rather extended account of latitude and longitude determinations, including some description of the instruments used; and of the subject of map projections. He next presents a variety of miscellaneous matters under the title "the elements of physical geography." Here are treated such topics as the composition of the atmosphere, the distribution of lands and oceans, continental and oceanic reliefs, waves, tides and currents, terrestrial magnetism, internal heat of the earth, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the work of winds, streams, and glaciers.

Seven chapters are devoted to the subject of Climate. After a detailed account of the several factors of climate, in which are set forth the principal features of atmospheric temperature, pressure, and humidity, there follows a